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Attorney General Advisory on Proposed Constitutional Amendment #1

On November 8, 2022, Kentuckians will vote on two proposed amendments to the Kentucky Constitution. This Advisory addresses the scope and effect of Constitutional Amendment #1.

Currently, the General Assembly meets for 30 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years and is must end by certain dates in the spring. If the General Assembly needs to meet for a longer period or later in the year, only the Governor can convene a special session and the Governor alone decides for what purposes.

A YES vote on Amendment #1:

- Allows the General Assembly to determine when it may meet in legislative session.
- Allows the General Assembly to adjust the session calendar if three fifths of each chamber agree to it.
- Allows leaders in the House and Senate—instead of the Governor alone—to call a special session for up to 12 days for any reason to address issues that require a legislative solution.

A YES vote on Amendment #1 does not:

- Take away the Governor's power to call extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly. This power was most recently exercised when Gov. Beshear called the General Assembly into session to pass a relief bill for Eastern Kentucky after deadly flooding.
- Make Kentucky's legislature a full-time job instead of a part-time job. There will still be limits on the length of legislative sessions.

By voting YES, a voter wants the General Assembly, in addition to the Governor, to control when the legislature meets. By voting NO, a voter prefers to maintain the current law.